



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
April 3, 2006

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Public Health Week Celebrated April 3 Through 9 in North Dakota

BISMARCK, N.D. – Gov. John Hoeven has proclaimed April 3 through 9, 2006, as *Public Health Week* in North Dakota.

Designing Healthy Communities: Raising Healthy Kids is the theme of this year's campaign, which focuses on the impact of healthy communities on the health of children.

"A healthy environment is essential to ensure the health of everyone, especially our children," said State Health Officer Terry Dwelle, M.D. "A healthy community has safe drinking water, smoke-free buildings, healthy schools, and parks and playgrounds where children can be physically active. Children who learn to make healthy choices when they are young grow up to be healthy adults. The goal is to help them live longer and healthier lives."

Governor Hoeven's *Healthy North Dakota* initiative focuses on the importance of healthy living and healthy communities by challenging the state's citizens to take control of their health – to exercise more, to eat a healthy diet, to examine their use of tobacco and alcohol. The initiative provides the framework supporting North Dakotans in their efforts to make healthy choices by focusing on wellness and prevention – in schools, workplaces, senior centers, homes, and anywhere people live, learn, work and play.

For more information about *Public Health Week*, contact Kelly Nagel, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.252.8130. For more information about becoming involved with the *Healthy North Dakota* initiative, contact Melissa Olson, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.4908.

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**PROCLAMATION
Public Health Week
April 3 through 9, 2006**

WHEREAS, public health activities protect North Dakotans from infectious and chronic diseases, environmental and workplace hazards, unintentional injuries and violence; and

WHEREAS, public health programs and services benefit everyone regardless of race, ethnicity or socioeconomic status and are essential to a strong, successful health system; and

WHEREAS, public health strives to eliminate inequality in personal health, health-care utilization and health-care access and works to inspire people who want to reduce health disparities in their communities; and

WHEREAS, educating people about the benefits of healthy behaviors is an essential element in attaining good health and preventing premature illness and death; and

WHEREAS, state and local public health agencies and the citizens of North Dakota are encouraged to celebrate and acknowledge the many benefits of public health.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim April 3 through 9, 2006, **PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK** in the state of North Dakota.

John Hoeven
Governor